



The Connector

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Office of Global Intergovernmental Affairs

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Did you Know?

- The city of Copenhagen, Denmark ranks #6 in the World's Most Eco-Friendly Cities.
- The deep water port, Garden City Terminal in Savannah, GA is the fourth largest container handling facility in the United States. It encompasses more than 1,200 acres and moves millions of tons of containerized cargo annually.

Subnational Engagement: Complementing the U.S.-Brazil 21st Century Relationship

In 2011, U.S. Ambassador to Brazil Thomas A. Shannon Jr. and Brazilian Ambassador Mauro Vieira signed the U.S.-Brazil Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation to Support the Organization of Major Global Sporting Events. Both nations agreed to work together to prepare for these events to promote equitable and inclusive economic development through peer-to-peer consultations, trade missions, public-private partnerships, and outreach to under-represented groups.

President Barack Obama and Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff stressed that these burgeoning subnational partnerships complement the strengthening of bilateral relations and friendship during President Rousseff's official visit to Washington D.C. in April 2012. They welcomed the MOU to Support State and Local

Cooperation, signed by Secretary Clinton and Brazilian Foreign Minister Patriota, which encourages subnational entities to unite efforts to achieve goals in areas of mutual interest, such as trade and investment, economic opportunity, science, technology and innovation, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and preparation for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games and other major events.

Special Representative Lewis collaborated with the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs to support this MOU as chair of the multi-stakeholder working group on Economic Opportunity in the Context of Major Global Events during the U.S.-Brazil Joint Action Plan to Promote Racial and Ethnic Equality steering committee meeting, held in Washington D.C. in December 2011. Special Representative Lewis traveled to



Secretary Clinton and Minister of External Relations of Brazil Antonio de Aguiar Patriota during the signing of the MOU—DoS Photo

eleven of the cities and states scheduled to host the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games to explore opportunities for subnational cooperation on major sporting event preparation. In each of the locations she visited, she met with mayors, governors, and local business and non-profit organization leaders, who shared their aspirations and outlined existing efforts to strengthen or (Cont. on 3)

Connecting Young Minority Leaders Means a Better Future on Both Sides of the Atlantic

On April 22, Special Representative Lewis led a delegation of young political leaders and elected officials from around the United States to participate in the 2012 Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. The three-day training conference provided an excellent opportunity to build relations between emerging ethnic and religious minority leaders in the United States and Europe who share a passion for public service. As leader of the U.S. delegation, SR Lewis



SR Lewis, U.S. Ambassador to Denmark Laurie S. Fulton and Nicolai Wammen, Minister of European Affairs
DoS Photo

served as a catalyst to strengthen communication and ties among these young peers. The program was initiated by the Special Representative to Muslim Communities Farah Pandith and the Bu-

reau of European and Eurasian Affairs, and co-sponsored by Copenhagen Mayor for Employment and Integration, Anna Mee Allerslev; the Danish Ethnic Youth Council; the German Marshall Fund; and the Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference. This initiative was supported by U.S. Ambassador to Denmark Laurie S. Fulton, Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), and Hannes Swoboda, MEP.

Over 70 elected leaders and civil society activists under the age of 35, (Cont. on 4)



Expanding Subnational Engagement in South Africa

“There are numerous opportunities for subnational partnerships between the United States and South Africa. Cities, municipalities, and universities in the United States are interested in working with their counterparts in South Africa.”

— **Special Representative Lewis, March 13, 2012**

S/SRGIA, in partnership with the Bureau of African Affairs and Sister Cities International, hosted a Smart Partnership Dialogue: Global Engagement Series (GES) entitled, “Leveraging Sister City Relationships as a Driver of Economic Development” on March 13, 2012. At the event, both U.S. and South African state and local officials discussed the economic advantages and benefits to building strong city-to-city relationships and how best to utilize these relationships for mutual benefit.

The program featured remarks by Stephen Nolan, Director of South African Affairs, U.S. Department of State. In addition,



SR Lewis and Ambassador Stephen Nolan during discussions at the GES on March 13, 2012
DoS Photo

Adam Kaplan of Sister Cities International moderated a panel discussion which featured Wanda Felton, Vice President and Vice Chair from Export-Import Bank; Scott Eisner from the International Division and Africa Busi-

ness Initiative, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and Alicia Robinson-Morgan, from the International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. U.S. Ambassador to South Africa Donald Gips and South African Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool also addressed the local leaders in attendance, emphasizing the importance of transforming city-to-city partnerships into concrete revenue producing projects. Ebrajo Councillor Mpho Nawa, Deputy Chairperson of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), also delivered remarks. SALGA is South Africa's national (Cont. on 4)

U.S. – China Subnational Engagement: Chinese Vice President Xi's Visit to the U.S.



Vice President Biden and Vice President Xi Jinping in Washington, D.C. for a reception in February 2012
DoS Photo

Vice President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China wrapped up a five-day trip to the United States in February 2012 with a stop in Los Angeles that included meetings with state and local officials and private sector leaders.

Vice President Xi's U.S. trip came at the invitation of Vice President Joseph Biden, following his trip to Beijing in August 2011. These reciprocal visits were agreed to by President Obama and

Chinese President Hu Jintao during President Hu's state visit to Washington, D.C. in January 2011.

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. of California and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa of Los Angeles welcomed Vice President Xi to California and hosted several events during the visit including a Governor's Roundtable between U.S. and Chinese Governors and a luncheon for U.S. and Chinese business and government leaders.

The Governor's Roundtable was moderated by Vice Presidents Biden and Xi and included Governors Neil Abercrombie (HI), Pat Quinn (IL), Peter Shumlin (VT), Brian Schweitzer (MT) and seven Chinese provincial officials. The roundtable dialogue continued to build relationships to foster expanded trade, cultural, environmental, and educational ties between U.S. and Chinese leaders. Mayor Edwin Lee of (Cont. on 4)

Subnational Engagement at the Fourth U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue



Secretary Clinton, Special Representative Lewis and various other members of both delegations at the U.S.-China EcoPartnerships Program Signing Ceremony in Beijing, China on May 3, 2012

DoS Photo

At the Fourth Round of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) held May 3-4, 2012, Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo held in-depth discussions on major bilateral, regional, and global issues to advance President Barack Obama and President Hu Jintao's shared vision for building a U.S.-China cooperative partnership.

In furtherance of this vision the S&ED encouraged the continued deepening of subnational relations as envisioned in the Memorandum of Understanding to Promote Subnational Cooperation. Both the U.S. and Chinese highlighted the success since the last S&ED of the inaugural U.S.-China Governors Forum held in Salt Lake City, the second dialogue held in Beijing, and the Governors Roundtable

held in Los Angeles during Vice President Xi Jinping's official visit.

The U.S.-China EcoPartnerships Program was also highlighted as a successful subnational engagement mechanism at the S&ED where Secretary Clinton welcomed the expansion of the program by admitting five new EcoPartnerships. (Cont. on 5)



Road to Rio

“Fifty two percent of the earth’s population now lives in cities. Every week one million people move to cities....States and cities do not face a choice between green and growth: they CAN and MUST pursue both.”

— **Special Rep. Lewis, March 8, 2012**

In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20, the Office of the Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs has collaborated with the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs on a series of outreach events and consultations with state and local leaders.

In this context, Special Representative Lewis participated in the R20 Regions of Climate Change Conference in Geneva, Switzerland on March 7, 2012. She joined former California Governor and R20 Founding Chair Arnold Schwarzenegger as



Special Rep. Lewis with Michele Saaban, President of the Assembly of European Regions
DoS Photo

well as state and local leaders from around the world to discuss the organization’s goals for Rio+20. Special Representative Lewis also participated in the March 8 OECD Urban Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers in Chicago, IL, where she delivered

remarks outlining U.S. goals for Rio+20.

Throughout the process leading to the conference which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 20-22, S/SGIA organized forums for city organizations and the staff of cities from throughout the United States to meet with and exchange views directly with U.S. negotiators involved in the Rio+20 process. The goal of these consultations was to allow the views and opinions of our state and local leaders to be considered for incorporation in U.S. Government positions presented at this landmark international forum.

Visit of Federal Senators and Legislative Leaders from Mexico to Sacramento



Speaker Pérez with members of the California Legislature and delegates from the Border Legislative Conference

California State Assembly Photo

The special relationship between California and Mexico was on full display during two March 2012 events in Sacramento, CA. The Speaker of the California State Assembly, John A. Pérez, hosted four members of Mexico’s Senate of the Republic for a series of meetings and briefings at the State Capitol on topics such as US-Mexico water treaties, solar energy and interstate cooperative opportunities. The senators were given official welcomes in both

the Assembly and State Senate as well as were honored by faculty and students from the University of California, Davis and California State University, Sacramento. They also met with Governor Edmund Brown Jr. of California.

Speaker Pérez also hosted members of the Border Legislative Conference (BLC) from the ten border states of the United States and Mexico. During this two day conference, members of the BLC were able to exchange informa-

tion during a series of presentations focused on shared issues of mutual concern between the border states of both countries. United States Ambassador to Mexico, Earl Anthony Wayne, and Consul General of Mexico, Sacramento, Carlos Gonzáles Guitiérrez provided an interactive special presentation on the overview of the US-Mexico relationship.

The BLC is (Cont. on 5)

Subnational Engagement: U.S.-Brazil 21st Century Relationship Continued

“Whether we’re taking advantage of shared opportunities or facing shared threats. We have to do all we can to work effectively together.”

— **Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, April 9, 2012**

(Cont. from 1) establish mutually-beneficial relationships with their U.S. counterparts.

Since the inception of these agreements and efforts, subnational relationships have increased significantly. U.S. states and localities such as Fulton County, Georgia, Florida, Missouri, Massachusetts, Houston, Texas and others have taken the initiative to strengthen ties with Brazilian

states. These relationships cover a varied range of mutually-important issues, such as education and exchange, social inclusion, trade and commerce, and major sporting events.



(L) Special Representative Lewis, (M) John Eaves - Chairman of Fulton County, (R) Jacques Wagner - Governor of Bahia at the MOU signing between the state of Bahia, Brazil and Fulton County, Georgia.
DoS photo



Connecting Young Minority Leaders Continued

"It is important that women and minorities have access to opportunity and participation. Nations cannot flourish if half their population is consigned to the margins or denied their rights."

— **Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton Feb. 28, 2011**

(Cont. from 1) representing 26 different countries across the United States and Europe, participated in this unprecedented exchange. The conference participants did indeed learn a great deal from each other as they explored the challenges facing minorities in politics on both sides of the Atlantic and shared strategies to overcome these challenges. They expressed a strong desire to build upon their relationships and offered each other ongoing support.

They described the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Conference as, "inspirational, profound, life-changing, and a memory they will not soon forget." In collaboration with the German Marshall Fund and IMPACT, a U.S. non-profit, they are using social media and creating a dedicated on-line space to exchange best practices, provide peer-to-peer mentoring and encourage future generations to play an increasingly active role in politics. Both the United States

and Europe will benefit from this visionary new generation of young leaders who are dedicated to creating more open and representative institutions.



Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Conference— DoS Photo

Expanding Subnational Engagement in South Africa Continued



Special Representative Lewis pictured with Mary D. Kane, President and CEO of Sister Cities International at the Smart Partnership Dialogue: Global Engagement Series "Leveraging Sister City Relationships as a Driver of Economic Development."

DoS Photo

(Cont. from 2) association for municipalities dedicated to transforming local governance.

This event highlighted the opportunities and resources offered through the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Export-Import Bank, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to facilitate business and trade relationships at the national, state/provincial and city level.

The event also recognized South African subnational officials who were visiting Washington, D.C. to attend the National League of Cities' (NLC) Congressional City Conference and NLC Leadership Training Institute held March 10-14, 2012. This visit supported the

SALGA and NLC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote subnational collaboration which was signed in August 2011 at the SALGA National Conference in Durban, South Africa.

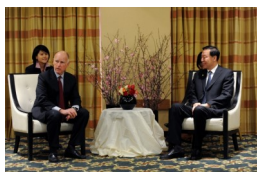


Special Rep. Lewis at the GES — DoS Photo

"The partnership between the U.S. and South Africa is grounded in mutual respect and mutual interest...This memorandum of understanding represents the breadth of our partnership and the strength of our friendship. It establishes the framework, guidelines and priorities of our common concerns, including health, education, food security, trade and investment, nonproliferation and disarmament."

— **Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton April 14, 2012**

Chinese Vice President Xi's Visit to the U.S. Continued



Governor Edmund G. Brown of California discussing investment with Jiangsu Province Party Secretary Luo Zhijun in Los Angeles in February 2012

DoS Photo

(Cont. from 2) of San Francisco and Mayor Jean Quan of Oakland also participated in the visit.

As part of an effort to increase direct investment in California and to assist the state's business community, Governor Brown announced during the Chinese Vice President's visit plans to re-open representative offices in Beijing and Shanghai, and proposed the formation of a Califor-

nia-China Joint Task Force to drive more collaboration, investment, and trade between California and Chinese provinces. A bilateral meeting with Governor Brown and Jiangsu Province Party Secretary Luo Zhijun was also held during the trip.

Before his visit to California, Vice President Xi stopped in Des Moines and Muscatine, Iowa,

where he was hosted by Iowa Governor Terry Branstad.



State and Local leaders pictured with Vice President Xi in Los Angeles— DoS Photo



U.S.-China Strategic Dialogue Continued

“Relationships between nations are rooted in the relationships between their people. And here, we are counting on American and Chinese people to contribute to the enduring nature of this consequential relationship. I believe that the more Chinese and American people learn about each other – the more resilient our relationship can be, even when we disagree.”

— **Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton,**
May 4, 2012

(Cont. from 2) U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern and China's National Development and Reform Commission Vice Chairman Xie Zhenhua co-chaired the event. Special Representative Lewis delivered remarks at the ceremony along with Science Advisor to President Obama Dr. John Holdren, U.S. Special Representative for Global Partnerships Kris Balderston, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Dr. Catherine Woteki. The five new EcoPartnerships include the City of Portland and the City of Kunming; UCLA, Peking University and the National Climate Change Strategy Research and Cooperation Center (NCSC); the International City/County Management Association (ICMA)

and China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL); the City of Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio and the City of Hefei, Anhui; and The Nature Conservancy's Great River Partnership and The Chinese Ministry of Agriculture's Yangtze River Fishery Administration. By bringing together local governments, research institutions, universities and corporations from the U.S. and China, EcoPartnerships spur innovation, investment and cooperation on energy and environmental issues in both countries. At the signing ceremony Secretary Clinton stated that “...we can work together to meet the challenges we face by working not only at our national government level but

also with state and local governments, the private sector, and civil society.”

At the conclusion of the S&ED, Special Representative Lewis traveled to Changchun, Jilin province and Harbin, Heilongjiang province in Northeast China in preparation for a regional cooperation initiative with U.S. Northeastern governors.



Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Secretary Clinton at the U.S.—China Strategic and Economic Dialogue—U.S. Embassy Photo

Visit of Federal Senators and Legislative Leaders from Mexico to Sacramento Continued



(L to R) Senators Claudia Sofía Corichi García, Adriana González Carrillo, Speaker John A. Pérez, Senators Silvano Aureoles Conejo and Amira Gómez Tueme Moore
California State Assembly Photo

(Cont. from 3) composed of state legislators from California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas in the U.S. as well as from Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas in Mexico.

Both events highlighted the longstanding economic, historic and cultural ties between the people of California and the people of Mexico.

“Mexico and the United States share nearly 2,000 miles of border, conduct more than one billion dollars in two way trade everyday and enjoy ties of culture and family that reach deep into the hearts of both our people. These ties of friendship guide us as we work toward common goals and interests, from improving regional security to promoting greater prosperity for all our people.”

— **Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton,**
Sept. 14, 2011

In the Next Issue of The Connector

- Special Representative Lewis' travel to Turkey featuring meetings with Turkish state and local officials.
- A recap of S/SRGIA's participation in Rio+20, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, as a member of the U.S. Delegation.

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